

Program Overview – Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

What are Museum Grants for African American History and Culture?

Museum Grants for African American History and Culture Museum grants (AAHC) are intended to enhance institutional capacity and sustainability through professional training, technical assistance, internships, outside expertise, and other tools. Successful proposals will focus on one or more of the following three goals: (1) developing or strengthening knowledge, skills, and other expertise of current staff at African American museums; (2) attracting and retaining professionals with the skills needed to strengthen African American museums; and (3) attracting new staff to African American museum practice and providing them with the expertise needed to sustain them in the museum field.

What is the period of time in which an applicant can conduct activities funded by a FY14 AAHC grant?

Projects must begin on August 1, September 1, or October 1, 2014. Projects must begin on the first day of the month and end on the last day of the final month of the project. Generally, project activities supported by AAHC grants may be carried out for up to two years.

How much money can an applicant apply for?

AAHC grant awards range from \$5,000 to \$150,000, subject to the availability of funds and IMLS discretion.

Does an applicant have to provide funds from other sources in order to be eligible for an AAHC grant?

In order to receive an AAHC grant, an organization must provide funds from non-federal sources in an amount that is equal to or greater than the amount of the grant.

What activities may be funded with an AAHC grant?

An eligible organization may apply for projects including, but not limited to, the following activities:

- Fostering professional development of museum staff, interns and volunteers
- Supporting training activities such as participation in courses, workshops, conferences, and professional meetings
- Encouraging succession planning, staff mentoring and career development
- Developing new or expanded staff positions to increase the capacity of the museum to address critical museum needs such as educational programming, collections management, exhibit development, and visitor services
- Developing and implementing a volunteer/docent program or an internship/fellowship program
- Fostering partnerships among museums and/or institutions of higher education to address challenges facing the African American museum community